

Amdt. dated July 8, 2005
In response to office action dated April 19, 2005

Serial No. 09/687,668
Docket No. SJO920000156US1
Firm No. 0037.0041

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments place the claims in a condition for allowance.

Amendments to the specification

The specification has been amended to correct the omission of the last digit of the year of issuance of United States Patent Application No. 6,161,104 in the amendments to the specification filed by the Applicants on Nov. 7, 2003.

Amendment to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 39-42 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but has indicated that claims 39-42 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Objected claims 39, 40, 41, and 42 depended on independent claims 1, 13, 18, 19 respectively. Applicants have canceled objected claims 39-42 that include allowable subject matter, and have included all the requirements of objected claims 39, 40, 41, and 42 in independent claims 1, 13, 18, 19 respectively and submit that claims 1, 13, 18, 19 are patentable over the cited art.

The remaining claims are either allowed by the Examiner or depend on the amended independent claims 1, 13, 18, or 19 and are patentable over the cited art.

Antecedent basis error and grammatical errors have been corrected in the claims. The usage of "said" and "the" have been made consistent in the claims. The word "improved" has been removed from claims 1 and 19 and applicants submit that this amendment does not affect the patentability of the claims over the cited art.

Conclusion

For all the above reasons, Applicant submits that the pending claims 1-38 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants have indicated appropriate fees to be charged. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be required, please charge Deposit Account indicated in the transmittal.

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The attorney/agent invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 557-2292 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

Dated: July 8, 2005

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